

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 SWF-02

CIEP-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5779

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 3290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JM, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SUGAR PRODUCERS GROUP

REF: GEORGETOWN'S 1629, KINGSTON A-128

1. CUBAN PROPOSAL FOR SUGAR CARTEL RECEIVED MINOR PRESS ATTENTION BASED ON REUTER'S ARTICLE DATED LINE 9. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE CUBA INTENDED TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA FROM ALL SUGAR PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL OTHER THAN BRIEF ARTICLE WHICH STATED THAT LOCAL SUGAR SOURCES HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT "PREMATURE AND INOPPORTUNE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CUBAN PROPOSAL" PARTICULARLY SINCE CARICOM IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING IN BRUSSELS CONCERNING NEW TRADING ARRANGEMENTS.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY IN DAILY NEWS ARTICLE SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN RICHARD FLETCHER AND CUBAN TRADE COMMISSIONER PRIETO DENIED THAT EITHER COUNTRY WAS

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PROPOSING A SUGAR CARTEL. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE TWO

COUNTRIES HAD SIMPLY EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON INTERNATIONAL MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS. FLETCHER SAID THAT JAMAICA COULD LEARN A LOT FROM CUBA ON THE MARKETING SIDE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF CUBA'S HIGHER VOLUME OF PRODUCTION BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS EXPERIENCE IN RESTRUCTURING ITS EXPORT MARKET IN VIEW OF THE U.S. BOYCOTT. FLETCHER ALSO INDICATED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE BUT THIS IN NO WAY IMPLIED THE CREATION OF A CARTEL.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IN FEBRUARY 1974 JAMAICA OBTAINED 6,000 TONS OF SUGAR FROM CUBA IN BARTER ARRANGEMENT. RECIPROCAL SUGAR SHIPMENT TO CUBA WAS MADE IN MAY 1974. JAMAICA HAS ALSO SOLD 10,000 TONS OF SUGAR RECENTLY TO THE PRC. SUGAR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND JAMAICA ONE ASPECT OF STEADILY INCREASING CONTACTS IN ALL FIELDS BETWEEN BOTH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS.
GERARD

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